

Application No. 10/804,610  
Reply to Office Action of June 22, 2006

SEP 19 2006

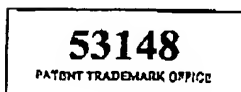
**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-47 remain pending in the application. Claim 1 is canceled. Allowable claims 2, 12, 18, and 25 are written in independent form and include substantially the features of now canceled claim 1. Consequently, the dependencies of claims 30-38 are amended to depend upon claim 2 instead of claim 1. Claims 39-42 are further amended and are supported for example at page 8 of Applicants' disclosure. Claims 48-59 are added and are supported for example in original claims 30-33. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1 and 30-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyajima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6667252) in view of Sarayama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6592663) or in view of Kawamura et al. The rejection is rendered moot, as claim 1 is canceled. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. As noted, allowable claims 2, 12, 18, and 25 have been written in independent form. Claims 30-47 now depend upon claim 2. Thus, these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 2.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued on this case. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.



Dated: September 19, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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